

Section I. Amendment of the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 23 to page 11, line 3 with the following new replacement paragraph:

According to a first aspect, the present invention relates to a method of obtaining hyaluronic acid nanoparticles with a diameter less than 1 [[m]] µm, which incorporate an active ingredient, irrespective of the hydrophobic or hydrophilic nature thereof. This method comprises the following steps:

- a) preparing an aqueous solution of a hyaluronic acid salt, preferably in a concentration of between 0.50 and 5 mg/mL;
- b) preparing an aqueous solution of a cationic polymer, preferably in a concentration of between 0.50 and 5 mg/mL;
- c) adding a polyanionic salt to the solution of the hyaluronic acid salt, preferably in a concentration of between 0.25 and 1.00 mg/mL;
- d) stir-mixing the solutions resulting from steps b) and c), spontaneously obtaining the nanoparticles.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 2-10 with the following new replacement paragraph:

The hyaluronic acid nanoparticles have a mean diameter of less than 1 [[m]] µm, therefore responding to the definition of nanoparticles, colloidal system formed from polymers with a size less than 1 [[m]] µm. The size thereof will vary in accordance with the quantity of hyaluronic acid that constitutes them, as well as in accordance with the quantity of polyanionic salt which is used in the system crosslinking, and the nature of the active ingredient they include.

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, line 17 to page 19, line 1 with the following new replacement paragraph:

Hyaluronic acid nanoparticles in the form of sodium salt, chitosan as cationic polymer and sodium triphosphate as crosslinking agent, were prepared according to the previously described method. Particle size and surface charge measurements were made, during one month, with the aim of obtaining information on the system evolution with time. For this, different formulations were selected with different quantities of hyaluronic acid. The theoretical HANA/CS/TPP proportions were 1/2/0.4(◆), 1/2.5/0.25(●), 1/3/0.5(■), 1/3/0.66(═) and 1/10/1.5(▲). The results presented in figures 4 and 5 showed the little variability of the parameters, size and zeta potential, during the storage.

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 3-15 with the following new replacement paragraph:

Nanoparticles of hyaluronic acid, chitosan and TPP were prepared according to the present invention. A hydrophobic molecule, CsA, was incorporated in the form described in example 3. Then, the diameter of the nanoparticles was measured throughout one week to check the system stability with time. It has also been verified that the drug is incorporated in the particles and not precipitated in the form of nanocrystals, as no type of crystalline growth was observed. The theoretical charge of CsA was set at a percentage of 25% with respect to the nanoparticle mass. The proportions of the particle-forming polymers and the crosslinking agent, HANA/CS/TPP, were 1/2/0.4 (◆) and 1/3/0.5(■).